



Interesting Case from our web site www.fairfield-vets.co.uk



"Zac" - dog with broken leg



Zac

Zac was rescued as a 6 month old puppy through this practice 14 years ago around the time when I first arrived in Hinckley.

It has been very interesting to observe how Zac has "matured" throughout that period.....he no doubt will have made some interesting observations about me!

Only last week I was discussing with his owner how age has affected him and what we could do to ensure that he was able to make the best of his twilight years. What was not in doubt was that he still fulfilled all the criteria necessary to establish that he was leading a good quality of life.

Unfortunately, after a week-end off I arrived at work last Monday to discover that he had broken his leg whilst playing in the garden. My colleagues had x-rayed his broken leg and found that he had a very nasty fracture below his hip.

In this situation when healing is not as rapid as it once was, it is very important to have the patient back up on their feet as quickly as possible. This also applies to elderly human patients who have suffered similar injuries. Additionally, in reconstructing the damaged bone it is vital to preserve the blood supply that is essential in achieving a good repair.

In this instance I was able to use a combination of a stainless steel intramedullary pin with an external fixator clamped with connecting bars on the outside of the affected leg. This provides excellent stability without disrupting the body's natural healing process.

Given that Zac scoffed his dinner on the night of surgery I am hopeful that he has exactly the right attitude to adversity which will pull him through! There's life in the old boy yet!



Zac's leg before pinning



Zac's leg after pinning

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This article is available on the Fairfield Veterinary Centre web site at www.fairfield-vets.co.uk

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